MALAYSIA

COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

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Division for Sustainable Development
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MALAYSIA

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All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.

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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre Internationa'
EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

ACRONYMS (Cont'd)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

OVERVIEW

Malaysia: Road from Rio

Malaysia's development planning process is well-defined and is based on two major planning instruments. Firstly, we have a long-term Outline Perspective Plan (OPP), which helps concentrate our efforts in achieving well-defined long-term national objectives. The second OPP was for the period 1991-2000 and is concerned largely with promoting social and political stability as well as efficient management of the economy to provide a favourable environment for pursuing growth with equity to achieve the objectives of our National Development Policy. The promotion of a balanced, broad-based, resilient and internationally competitive economy is paramount in order to provide a stronger foundation for the attainment of sustained growth and development, particularly in the process of transformation towards becoming a developed nation by the year 2020.

Malaysia also uses five-year plans, which seeks to implement strategies and programmes and allocate funds to realise the objectives and commitments of the National Development Policy and its OPPs. The results of the Rio process generally, and of Agenda 21 particularly, were incorporated and where appropriate, were integrated into the national planning process when the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) was reviewed in 1993, and was also used to input into the planning process of the current Seventh Malaysia Plan, covering the period 1996-2000.

Overall, in the period 1991-1995, the Malaysian economy recorded an average GDP growth of 8.7 per cent per annum. This rapid growth resulted in Malaysia's per capita income rising from RM 6,099 in 1990 to RM 9,786 in 1995. This remarkable performance of the economy has contributed to increasing prosperity for all Malaysians, and the incidence of hardcore and general poverty has been reduced markedly. The primary challenge for the Malaysian economy is now that of transforming the economy from one that is investment-driven to one that is productivity- and quality-driven, through enhancing the efficiency of labour and capital, skills upgrading, capital deepening and improving management and entrepreneurship.

Concomitant with this will be the need to accelerate the shift towards higher value-added activities that are labour-saving as well as capital- and technology-intensive. Such a shift requires the strengthening of the science and technology base and enhancing research and development capability. Besides this, it is necessary for Malaysia to realise the full potential of communications technology.

However, in our quest for continuing high growth, we are also taking steps to ensure that environmental and social considerations are not neglected in line with our philosophy of balanced development and that of sustainable development as envisaged in Agenda 21. As such, Malaysia will continue to take appropriate action to ensure that development is sustainable and balanced. Towards this end, environmental and conservation considerations will increasingly be integrated with development planning.

Overall, environmental and natural resource management under the Seventh Plan period will be guided by the National Policy on Environment, which is being formulated to ensure the long-term sustainability and improvement in the quality of life. The policy aims at promoting economic, social and cultural progress through environmentally-sound and sustainable development. In addition, a National Conservation Policy is also finalised to provide the framework for a comprehensive approach to natural resource development.

These efforts are being supplemented and complemented by investments from the private sector in the field of environment and natural resource management. Efforts are also being undertaken to create niches in environmental products and technologies in which Malaysia has a comparative advantage to cater to growing international demand. Environmental education and public awareness programmes have been stepped up in cooperation with NGOs and the private sector, to educate the public on environmental and conservation issues to realise the goal of sustainable development.

UNCSD - NATIONAL LEVEL COORDINATION STRUCTURE OF AGENDA 21 ACTIONS
(Fact Sheet)

MALAYSIA

1. Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).
An Inter-Agency Planning, Group, chaired by the Economic Planning Unit to coordinate national implementation of Agenda 21.

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2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson

2a. List of ministries and agencies involved:

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participation of academic and private sectors:

2c. Names of non-governmental organizations:

3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council:

4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries:

Submitted by
(Name): Freddie Cho **Signature:**

Title: Director **Date:** 1997

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MALAYSIA

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Increased foreign investments; shifting the economy to manufacturing and export-oriented trade

STATUS REPORT: Manufactured goods, such as textiles and high-technology computers, are playing an increasingly important role in external trade. A member of ASEAN, Malaysia favours liberal trade policies and is working towards the greater liberalization of international trade. A priority is to increase trade regionally and internationally (most trade is presently with Europe and the USA).

Most progress has been made in liberalizing trade among ASEAN member countries. Two important milestones contributing to this are the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation and the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme (CEPT) for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

The AFTA is set to be established by the year 2008, with reduced tariffs (zero to five percent) for traded, manufactured and processed agricultural goods among ASEAN countries. The Revised Basic Agreement on the ASEAN Industrial Joint Venture promotes intra-ASEAN investment, through which several projects have been carried out.

Malaysia is party to numerous trade agreements designed to improve bilateral trading and industrial investment. Malaysia also plays an active role in international commodity organizations to promote better and improved trading conditions and prices for commodities, including against attempts to impose non-tariff trade barriers on commodities such as tropical vegetable oils and tropical timber.

Other priority concerns include the stockpiling of certain commodities, imposition of high tariffs on value-added or finished products and commodity pricing strategies which do not reflect true costs of production and/or extraction (e.g., environmental and socio-economic costs). External forces in setting commodity pricing strategies by non-producer countries are a major concern.

Foreign investment in Malaysia is encouraged, particularly in the area of high-end technology, non-labour intensive and non-polluting industries, and foreign investment conditions aims have been liberalized to this end.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: A ministerial Council oversees the implementation of the CEPT.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Structural adjustment programmes have been implemented to change the economic base from resource-intensive to manufacturing and export-oriented trade.

There is a lack of clarity on the linkages between international trade, local industrial development and the environment among all levels of government. Work is in progress to improve techniques for assessing the linkage between trade and the environment. Capacity-building priorities include improving environmental accounting skills, policy analysis and centralized planning and evaluation skills.

3. Major Groups: Various domestic governmental and non-government agencies have participated in consultations on the feasibility and national implications of an international timber certification scheme.

4. Finance: Several fiscal and financial incentives have been announced to facilitate increased foreign investment. Innovative international financial mechanisms are still required and must be open and transparent, particularly with respect to their eligibility criteria. They must be flexible to suit individual country needs, be accessible and participatory. Priority setting must be according to a country's needs and not by the structure of the funding mechanisms.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Malaysia participates actively in a number of regional and international organizations and agreements, such as ASEAN, the East Asia Economic Caucus (aimed at improving trade conditions and arrangements); the South Investment Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre, the Association of Tin Producing Countries, the International Tin Agreement and the International Tropical Timber Agreement. Malaysia is also active in the Group of 15.

Training programmes are being organized by the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme and the National Institute of Public Administration to train officials from other developing countries on economic and environmental management.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Progress, 1991-1995

The incidence of overall poverty in Malaysia was reduced from 17.1 per cent in 1990 to 9.6 per cent in 1995, surpassing the Sixth Plan target of 11.1 per cent. During the Sixth Plan period, the focus of anti-poverty programmes was directed at the hardcore poor. Efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty was spearheaded by a special programme known as the Development Programme For the Poorest. As a result, the incidence of hardcore poverty in Malaysia decreased from 4.0 per cent in 1990 to 2.2 per cent in 1995.

In alleviating poverty, the Government implemented various programmes and projects aimed at rural and agricultural households. Among others, the poor participated and benefitted from projects such as the Integrated Agricultural Development Projects, the provision of agriculture infrastructure, replanting schemes, land consolidation and rehabilitation, and support services. In addition, greater employment opportunities from off-farm and non-farm activities helped to increase income of poor households.

Prospects, 1996-2000

The thrust of poverty eradication will be directed at .educing the incidence of poverty among Malaysians to 5.5 per cent by the year 2000. At the same time, hardcore poverty will be practically eradicated by lowering its incidence to about 0.5 per cent. Anti-poverty programmes will be targeted towards eradicating poverty in areas and among groups with high incidence of poverty. Priority will be given to the poorest states and districts as well as the *Orang Asli* (aboriginal people of Peninsular Malaysia) community and the urban poor.

While attention will continue to be given to direct welfare assistance, attitudinal change and the provision of basic amenities, poverty eradication programmes will place primary emphasis on income-generating projects. Among others, the income-generating projects include cash crop cultivation, livestock rearing, aquaculture, petty trading and cottage industries.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: The formulation of poverty alleviation policies and programmes in Malaysia has been led and coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department. The process has been a multi-tiered one, involving village leaders at the bottom, the federal, state and local levels of the public service machinery, the Cabinet and, at the very top, Parliament.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Some of the pertinent issues include the provision of training, in terms of attitudinal change as well as the application of improved production technology and small-scale industry among agricultural households, and general education for children of poor households, especially in rural areas.

3. Major Groups: In addition to the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the state-based Poverty Eradication Foundations, with the support of the private sector, have also voluntarily involved themselves in helping to reduce poverty in Malaysia. The task of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of various anti-poverty programmes has been assigned to the Ministry of Rural Development.

4. Finance: Anti-poverty programmes in Malaysia have been mostly funded domestically, either through public or private sources.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Malaysia has been actively involved in sharing our successful experience in poverty alleviation in a number of regional and international seminars/workshops, organized by ESCAP, ECOSOC, UNDP, the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNCTAD and the United Nations, as well as through bilateral arrangement with individual countries.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	1995
Unemployment (% of labour force)	6.7	5.1	3.7	2.8
Population living in absolute poverty (% of households)	20.7	17.1	13.5	9.6
	1986-90		1991-95	
Public spending on social sector %	24.8		24.4	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

- **National policy objectives/focus**

Strategic policy priorities are in place to reduce poverty and expand equitable socio-economic development across the nation, but this must be done in a sustainable manner. This poverty reduction policy is increasing consumption. Rapid economic growth has resulted in increased investment (local and foreign) in the manufacturing sector, low unemployment and one of the highest *per capita* incomes in the region.

Several fiscal incentives have been announced to facilitate the purchase of new, more efficient and cleaner technology in manufacturing, waste management and air pollution control. These include the granting of pioneer status to certain types of companies and exemption of import duty, sales tax and excise duty from pollution control technology.

Public awareness campaigns are carried out by NGOs and government agencies and consumer groups are active partners in controlling consumption. The Government has implemented a number of financial incentives in order to encourage increased savings (e.g., raised income tax relief for insurance contributions).

Malaysia calls for fiscal incentives for the use of clean technology to be complemented with stringent enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.

- **National targets**

Specific long-term campaigns are needed to change consumption patterns.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: No specific mention.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Efforts are under way to integrate consumer education into the formal education system.

3. Major Groups: No specific mention.

4. Finance: There is little need for financial assistance to promote changes in consumption and production patterns, since most effort must come through consumer education programmes and campaigns. Fiscal incentives and dis-incentives are required to encourage change in attitudes in both the private sector and the general public.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Assistance is sought for the development of awareness programmes and to prevent dumping of unsustainable products and production technology and techniques in Malaysia.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1993	1995	
GDP per capita (current US$)	1,990	2,362	3,286	4,228	
Real GDP growth (%)	-1.1	9.7	7.8	9.5	
Annual energy consumption per capita (Kg. of oil equivalent per capita)	931 [1]	1,043	1,529	922.9	
Motor vehicles in use per 1000 inhabitants	108.1	126.8	145.1	122.4	
Other data					

[1] 1989.

Government policies affecting consumption and production.

1. Goals and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with a (x) those agents which your Governments policies are meant most to influence.

Agents / Goals	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	Households	Civil society
Material efficiency	x				
Energy efficiency:					
Transport					
Housing					
Other					
Waste:					
Reduce	x			x	x
Reuse					
Recycle		x		x	x

Comments: Industries are encouraged to improve production methods through the use of more efficient and cleaner manufacturing technology. This includes companies involved in the storage, treatment and disposal of agricultural and chemical waste.

2. Means & Measures and Agents (Stakeholders)

Indicate with an (R) those agents who assume primary responsibility for any of the policy measures indicated; indicate with an (I) the agents for which the impact is expected to be especially significant.

Means & Measures \ Agents	Producers	Local authorities	Central Government	House-holds	Civil Society
Improving understanding and analysis					
Information and education (e.g., radio/TV/press)		R		I	I
Research	R/I		R		
Evaluating environmental claims					
Form partnerships	R/I		R/I	I	R/I
Applying tools for modifying behaviour					
Community based strategies		R	R	I	R/I
Social incentives/disincentives (e.g., ecolabelling)	I		R		I
Regulatory instruments	I		R		
Economic incentives/disincentives	I		R		I
Voluntary agreements of producer responsibility for aspects of product life cycle	R/I		R		
Provision of enabling facilities and infrastructure (e.g., transportation alternatives, recycling)	R/I		R/I		
Procurement policy					
Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing performance					
Action campaign			R	I	R/I
Other (specify)	R/I		R		

Comments: Civil Society includes non-governmental organizations.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The Malaysian government has taken steps towards the formulation of a National Plan of Action on Population and Development (NPA). This plan of action is based on the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Plan Studies on the Implementation of the National Population Policy conducted in 1992 and also the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (POA). Twelve chapters have been identified to be included in the NPA taking into account national priorities, targets and principles. Malaysia is also currently in the process of developing a National Programme of Action for Families which will be ready by mid 1997. Malaysia is currently reviewing and strengthening its mechanism for planning, coordinating and implementing population and family development programmes. To date no national population programmes have been revised to align them with the POA.

Total population increased at 2.7 per cent per annum during 1991-1995, to reach 20.69 million in 1995. In terms of age structure, about 35 per cent were below the age of 15, while 3.7 per cent were in the age group 65 and above. The remaining 61 per cent were in the working age group 15-64.

The dependency ratio dropped to 64 in 1995 as compared to 69 in 1991. The relatively lower dependency ratio can be explained largely by the reduction in the proportion of the population aged below 15 years as a result of continued declines in fertility.

In the Government's view, both population growth and fertility level are satisfactory and it intents to maintain the status quo.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB), established in 1966 under the Population and Family Development Act (Revised 1988). NPFDB is a statutory body under the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:

a) Population, family and reproductive health research which include research in contraceptive technology.

b) Reproductive health service delivery which include family planning and family counselling.

3. Major Groups: Major target groups include the general population, families, married women in the reproductive age group (15-49 years), youth and children.

4. Finance: The population and family development programmes and activities are domestically funded. International financing is sought for special activities.

5. Regional/International Cooperation:

a) United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)
b) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and pacific (ESCAP)
c) Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)
d) World Health Organisation
e) United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1993	Latest 1995	
Population (Thousands) mid-year estimates	18,547	19,557	20,689	
Annual rate of increase (1990-1993)			2.7	
Surface area (Km^2)		329,758	329,758	
Population density (people/Km^2)		58	63	
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

NATIONAL PRIORITY: Health for all

STATUS REPORT: Significant progress has been made in establishing an extensive health care delivery system for the rural population, through a network of health facilities supported by an organised system of referral. Health Centres now called Health Clinics focus on all 4 components of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services such as communicable disease control, treatment of early conditions and diseases, maternal and child health services, family planning and health education. To further facilitate these clinics to be a one-stop centre, new programmes for the elderly, adolescent, mental health, workers health and rehabilitation have been added. Rural Health Clinics, now called Community Nurse Clinics provide maternal and child health services and basic curative services. Mobile teams make regular visits to pockets of population in remote areas and special institutions. District hospitals provide curative care for both medical and dental problems. Large District Hospitals are also providing basic specialists services. The District Health Office is responsible for preventive programme like communicable disease control, vector control as well as environment sanitation. In the urban areas, the establishment of polyclinics provide affordable outpatient services. The population also has access to private clinics and hospitals.

The combined rural and urban health care system have contributed to the increased coverage of immunisation against childhood diseases namely tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis, to a level exceeding 85%. The country eradicated polio in 1995 and is working towards elimination of tetanus. Significant progress has been made to control other communicable diseases such as malaria, filariasis, typhoid, hepatitis A, leprosy, tuberculosis through improved sanitation facilities; increased access to safe drinking water and improved dental health. The resurgence of some communicable diseases as a result of rural-urban and international transmigration and the spread of AIDS are being addressed. New programmes are being initiated to address the challenges posed by increased incidence of non-communicable diseases like lifestyle-related illnesses, environmental health and occupational diseases. Health promotion activities emphasise on advertising and marketing positive health behaviour through the Health Ministry's annual Healthy Life Style Campaigns, beginning 1991 onwards, with disease-specific themes such as prevention of diabetes mellitus in 1996 and healthy diet and nutrition in 1997. Community participation and the involvement of non-governmental organisations have contributed to the success in the implementation of these programmes. Collaboration with government agencies for example the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has allowed emerging problems related to industrialisation and occupational health to be addressed.

Considerable research has already been undertaken in vector-borne diseases, nutritional disorder and diarrhoeal diseases. Much of the work done on community diagnosis has contributed to the development of the rural health services and their expansion in the early 60's and 70's. Research institutions such as the Institute for Medical Research carry out a broad range of biomedical and health development-oriented research as well as act as a reference laboratory and provide sophisticated diagnostic services. The Public Health Institute as a lead agency in health system research collaborates with programme directors and the universities to identify research needs in the prevention, control and management of diseases as resource to its teaching programmes for basic and post-basic health courses.

To ensure quality care and cater for the expanding health programmes, continuous training of in-service medical and health personnel is emphasised. The relative shortage of trained health personnel is a constraint to the health care system. Remedial measures include increasing the intake of medical students in the local universities, recruiting foreign doctors and nurses and reemployment of retired health personnel. Private institutions are being given permission to run twinning programmes for medical students with established medical facilities/universities overseas as well as nursing colleges. Improved service conditions for doctors and specialists are also being offered by the government.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** See "Status Report".

3. **Major Groups:** NGOs are particularly active in health promotion and awareness building activities, through independent programmes and in cooperation with the government. Disease control activities are also undertaken by local authorities with internal health inspectorates and play an important role in the detection and prevention of communicable diseases in urban and semi-urban areas.

4. **Finance:** Local financial resources allocated for the health sector during the Sixth Malaysia plan (1991 - 1995) amounted to RM 2,253 million, which is 4.1 percent of the total development allocation for the period. Funding from external aid agencies will still be required for specific training and research programmes and the purchase of specialized skills.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Malaysia continues to rely on the World Health Organization and other international bodies for the development and improvement of various types of vaccines.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	1995
Life expectancy at birth			
Male	63.5	67.5	69.6
Female	67.1	71.6	74.5
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	34	13	11
Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births)	60	20	20
Access to safe drinking water (% of population)		75.1	83.6
Access to sanitation services (% of population)		83.2	92.0
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: To provide adequate shelter, relocation of industrial areas, improvement of service facilities for waste disposal, sewage treatment, sanitation, water supply and energy and transport.

STATUS REPORT: Malaysia is formulating a National Urban Policy to ensure a more organized urbanization process and well-integrated rural-urban development linkages. The main objective of Malaysia's housing policy is to give emphasis to the provision of adequate, affordable and quality housing for all Malaysians. The government is encouraging the private sector to work with public agencies. The scarcity and high cost of land in urban areas as well as the rising cost of labour and materials plague low-cost housing schemes. Activities to relocate squatters are being developed and implemented in many towns.

Current policies support sustainable construction industry activities. National and state laws and regulations, including the Uniform Building By-laws, provide for such activities to be monitored and enforced by local authorities. State governments have played an important role in fixing quotas and price ceilings to ensure access to low-cost housing by the poor. Banks also help by providing low interest loans. Environmental management strategies are also moving away from remedial towards preventive approaches. The Sewerage Services Act of 1993 aims to facilitate the privatization of public sewerage systems as a means to upgrade them. Environmental and sanitation programmes are being emphasized in rural and squatter areas. A feasibility study is also being planned to look into the privatisation of solid waste management services.

Much construction has been based on inappropriate standards. Attention is now focused on developing standards appropriate to tropical and local conditions.

The Sixth Malaysia Plan provided for the improvement of major inter-urban road networking, upgrading of road systems, modernization of the railway system and the expansion of maritime and air transportation facilities. Inadequate energy supply, due to growing industrialization, has resulted in the government's push for more efficient and reliable power generation. Nationwide flood mitigation programmes and construction of hydropower and irrigation dams have reduced the extent of flood damage that Malaysia is prone to. Flood mitigation measures however have not kept pace with development in areas most vulnerable to flooding.

The Sixth Malaysia Plan also incorporated environmental considerations more thoroughly than the previous five-year plans. Efforts continue to be made, however, to improve the balance between economic growth and environmental considerations. Greater emphasis is being given to incorporate environmental considerations into all aspects of planning and management. The promotion of the environmental impact assessment process is being strengthened.

The Town and Country Planning Department undertakes the preparation of development plans. Some Local Authorities within the Malaysian Peninsula started to develop their respective Structure Plans during the Fourth Malaysia Plan. The National Spatial Planning project coordinates and integrates the various national plans and policies (e.g., the National Agriculture Policy, the Industrial Master Plan and the proposed National Urban Policy). The proposed National Urban Policy should address land-use matters. Training is being stressed to improve skills and technical capability, as well as on environmental considerations. Many government agencies, universities and the private sector have set up geographic information systems (GIS) to assist in planning and management. The Department of Environment has a GIS and has set up a computerized database. Inter-agency coordination, information sharing, processing and dissemination needs to be enhanced to promote cross-sectoral integration and institutional capacity-building.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Major decisions regarding land are made by State governments. The Federal Constitution provides for the National Land Council (NLC) to advise on matters relating to natural resources. The NLC has contributed to the formation of the National Forestry Policy, the National Agricultural Policy and the National Minerals Policy. The Environment Quality Order of 1987 identified 19 categories of development activities that require environmental impact assessments. This order approves or rejects the report about a project and not the project itself. A conservation clause is included in every development project agreement so as to strengthen environmental control and preventive measures. Various acts related to sewage and solid wastes, soil erosion and watershed management need strengthening. Local planning authorities are responsible for planning approvals, but face a shortage of technical personnel to regulate activities.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: See Status Report.

3. Major Groups: No specific mention.

4. Finance: Use of funds by developers is monitored and regulated by the Housing Developers Regulations of 1991. Lending and funding incentives are available to help developers and buyers. Incentives include a special fund to subsidize and promote the construction of low cost houses, better terms of housing loan to house buyers, better financing facilities to promote the construction of low to medium priced houses and allocation of houses for rent to the very poor. Domestic resources are generally adequate.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Malaysia's chief needs are in developing technical standards and transfer of skills and particularly in the area of water supply development, health programmes and infrastructure construction. There are specific requirements for external assistance, including the upgrading of engineering skills and experience for the development of high-rise buildings and major infrastructure projects such as highways and airports.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1995	
Urban population in % of total population	49.8	53.7	
Annual rate of growth of urban population (%)	4.3	3.9	
Largest city population (in % of total population)	6.3	6.2	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING
(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	HIGH	

STATUS REPORT: The long-term Outline Perspective Plan 1991-2000 (OPP) guides Malaysian Development. This plan is based on the National Development Policy which aims to eradicate poverty and correct social and economic imbalances. Within the OPP, national development projects are drawn up and implemented through a series of Five-Year Plans, which include a significant environmental component. Efforts are being undertaken to integrate existing policy objectives into a National Environment Policy. The intention is to promote the integration of environmental considerations into economic development plans and their implementation.

Many of the themes embodied in Agenda 21 are also embodied in Malaysian Policy, with the National Development Council working to integrate other Agenda 21 themes. In particular, Agenda 21 themes have been integrated into the country's five-year development plans.

Efforts are underway to strengthen the legislative framework through continuous review, updating and amendments where practical to meet future needs. In addition, Malaysia is developing expertise and tools such as environmental auditing and natural resources accounting to help quantify impacts on the cost of environmental regulation. In particular, a system of Natural Resource Accounting is being developed within the framework of the National Conservation Strategy and is geared to illustrate the effects of economic development on the natural resource base and the refinement of economic indicators.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet):** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific mention.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Montreal Protocol was ratified in 1989, the London and Copenhagen Amendments in 1993.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed in 1993 and ratified in 1994.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The cost to Malaysia of phasing out chlorofluorocarbons and halons and switching to alternatives has been estimated at US$ 270 million. Till February 1997, 86 projects and activities amounting to US$27 million were approved by the Multilateral Fund for Malaysia. Out of 70 countries which received assistance from the Fund, Malaysia is leading the list in terms of number of projects completed and phase-out of CFC and halon. According to a report by UNDP, Malaysia ranks highest in CFC project completion score, and it's once CFC-dependent industries are thriving on new technologies and their competitive edge. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer, UNEP bestowed the 1995 Global Ozone Award to Malaysia. In 1996, Malaysia received Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award from USEPA.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: A National Steering Committee on the Protection of the Ozone Layer has been set up to oversee the implementation of the National Plan and Country Programme on CFC and Halon. Such policies and strategies include monitoring of the import and consumption of controlled substances and encouragement of the use of non-CFC. An Action Plan comprising activities and investment projects is being implemented to phase-out the use of CFC by the year 2000.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Lack of technical knowledge related to the conversion process use CFC-free technology particularly to small medium industries.

3. Major Groups: Representative from seven industrial working groups play major roles for the implementation of CFC phase-out programme in Malaysia.

4. Finance: Technical and financial assistance from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol has been a catalyst for conversion to non-CFC technologies.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Regional cooperation activity include ODS NETWORK/SEAP which established since 1993 as well assistance from CIDA, JICA and UNEP.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1996 (until Oct.)	
CO_2 emissions (eq. million tons)				
SO_x "				
NO_x "				
CH_4 "				
Consumption of ozone depleting substances (Tons)(Annex A only)	-	3622	2335	
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US$ equivalents (million)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: Land use planning is considered as an important instrument towards integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources through proper use, conservation and development of land regulated by the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172). Act 172 requires the local planning authority to prepare development plans (Structure and Local Plan). Since UNCED and by the end of 1996, all 96 local authorities in Peninsular Malaysia have their structure plans prepared for their areas. For the preparation of Local Plans, plans for 62 main urban centres in 27 local authorities have been completed. In the Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000), emphasis is on the preparation of local plans for the remainder of the local authority areas. It is envisaged that by the end of the Seventh Malaysia Plan, each local authority would have at least one (1) local plan. Other than statutory development plans, non-statutory plans are also prepared which include 26 district development plans, 28 rural development plans and other special projects, including the development plan for Putrajaya, Islands, Multi-media Super Corridor and regional strategic plans. Towards achieving sustainable development, Act 172 has been strengthened and updated in 1995 (Act A933) particularly in protecting the natural environment from impacts of development. The amendments include the preservation and planting of trees, preservation of natural topography, provision of open spaces and a requirement for submitting development proposal reports in all planning permission application. To enhance the efficient use of natural resources and conservation of the built-environment, an Integrated Planning and Resource Management System has been adopted. The system emphasizes the integration of environmental management, spatial component of national strategies and policies and access to decision-support information in the process of development planning at all levels of government administration. On the physical planning information system, a Feasibility Study has been conducted and the programmes are proposed to be carried out in the Seventh Malaysia Plan. With the full operation of the system, the monitoring of the use, conservation and development of land can be carried out more effectively.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Each State in Peninsular Malaysia has adopted Act 172, and under the provision of this Act, State Planning Committees (SPCs) have been formed, to advise the State Government on matters pertaining to the use, conservation and development of land within the respective State. All the decisions of the SPC are to be implemented by all planning agencies in the State.

On the development plan under Act 172, upon approval by the SPC, the plans will be gazetted and any development application should conform to the said plans and other material considerations.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: An advisory body, the Town and Country Planning Department of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government administers the Town and Country Planning Act of 1976. There is a need for further integration, education and training within existing institutions with a focus on technology transfer.

The main weakness in human resources is lack of expertise and knowledge in ensuring that landuse planning integrates environmental aspect to the fullest to achieve sustainable development.

3. Major Groups: Preparation of development plans under Act 172 includes a public participatory mechanism which involves public consultation during the planning process.

4. Finance: Most programmes and activities carried out are funded domestically. International financing is sought for activities requiring technology transfer and technical cooperation.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: The Danish Cooperation on Environment and Development (DANCED) programme has started working on the "Sustainable Urban Development Project in Sabah and Sarawak".

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	VERY HIGH	

STATUS REPORT: Progress since UNCED includes the approval of the revised National Forestry Policy and the amended National Forestry Act. The latter increased fines and enabled greater enforceability, in particular by the Police and Armed Forces. Malaysia has designated 43 percent (14.1 million hectares) of its total land area as Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) to be managed sustainably. The PFE is classified under four broad categories based on functional use: production, protection, amenity and research/education. Efforts are underway to prepare management and development plans for non-production components of the PFE. Virgin Jungle Reserves (VJR) presently total 111,800 hectares and are to serve as permanent nature reserves and natural arboreta, conserving various forest and ecological types in their original conditions. Malaysia has established a Genetic Resource Area to demonstrate the feasibility of systematic observation of forest genetic resources. Progress has also been made in improving forest resources assessment and systematic observation. The Third Forest Inventory for Peninsular Malaysia was completed in 1993. A methodology for the Continuous Forest Resources Monitoring System for Peninsular Malaysia was also made operational in 1993 with help from UNDP and FAO. Improvement in techniques and methods of resource monitoring has been made with the establishment of remote sensing and GIS units in the Forestry Department of Sarawak. The capability of the GIS units are occasionally upgraded. The National Committee on Sustainable Forest Management in Malaysia was formed in early 1994 to formulate criteria, indicators and activities required to ensure sustainable management, conservation and development of Malaysia's forest resources, taking into account the ITTO Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

To promote investment and involvement of the private sector in plantation forestry, full tax exemption is granted under the Pioneer Status for ten years, or 100 percent tax exemption under the Investment Tax Allowance for five years. Nevertheless, there has not been much response and these incentives may need to be reviewed and/or revised. Other incentives are given to manufacturers who export and there are incentives for research, development and training. Privatization of existing forest plantations is also encouraged, particularly in Peninsular Malaysia. The forestry sector also provides gainful employment for over 160,000 people and contributed to 4 percent of the country's GDP for 1992.

Human resource development and training is an on-going activity of the various forestry agencies, carried out with both domestic funding and foreign aid. Malaysia is also active in regional and international collaborative projects. These projects have as a particular focus the aim to enhance transfer of technology, technical cooperation and forest resource monitoring. Malaysia is formulating a national policy and reviewing the adequacy and appropriateness of current legislation to govern the collection of genetic resources and protect farmers' rights, as well as to safeguard plant breeders intellectual property rights.

The National Forestry Information System is an on-going programme to ensure full computerization and automation of forest resource information, but suffers from inadequate computer technology and the lack of trained people. Given the shortage, high priority is being accorded to training programmes aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills in forestry and timber industry personnel. Malaysia is currently looking into the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regards to developing forest management guidelines. The lack of base-line information constrains this activity.
Management prescriptions have been formulated for rattan and naturally-occurring bamboo forests, mostly in Peninsular Malaysia. However, the inventory of non-wood forest produce is often problematic and tedious, making it difficult to implement these prescriptions (particularly for rattan). The Industrial Master Plan (1986-1995) gave priority to processing industries producing higher value-added timber products. Export performance of these industries, particularly for furniture, have exceeded targets. While consultative committees exist at various levels to deliberate and resolve forest resource management issues, public awareness on forestry issues needs to be improved. In many cases, public consultation is required by law.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Each state is empowered to enact laws on forestry and to formulate forest policy independently. The executive authority of the Federal Government only extends to the provision of advice and technical assistance to the states, training and the conduct of research and maintenance of experimental and demonstration stations. The National Forestry Council (NFC), established in 1971 under the National Land Council (NLC), is empowered to promote and control the use of land for mining, agriculture and forestry. All decisions of the NFC must be endorsed by the NLC and are to be implemented by State Governments unless the decisions are within the authority of the Federal Government. Their implementation is monitored quarterly by the Ministry of Primary Industries.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Weaknesses in human resources lie in the general shortage of trained staff, lack of management, planning and implementation skills, as well as lack of knowledge on industrial applications related to forestry.

3. Major Groups: Representatives of major groups participate in open discussions and consensus-building meetings. Afforestation efforts have been impeded by native customary rights, particularly in Sabah and Sarawak.

4. Finance: Most programmes and activities carried out in the area of sustainable forest management are funded domestically. International financing is sought for activities requiring technology transfer and technical cooperation.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Key regional and international organizations active in forest programmes include the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development Programme (DANCED), the UK Overseas Development Administration, the European Union, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), ITTO and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). External assistance has amounted to approximately US$ 14.5 million for the 1994-1995 period (not including in-kind contributions.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	Latest 1995	
Forest Area (Km^2)	206,100	193,300	192,200	
Protected forest area				
Roundwood production (solid volume of roundwood without bark in mill m^3)	37.5	49.7		
Deforestation rate (Km^2/annum)		3,100 [1]		
Reforestation rate (Km^2/annum)	200			
Other data				

[1] 1989.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: **The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa was signed in 1995 but has not been ratified yet.** **Additional comments relevant to this chapter** No specific information.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific information.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific information.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific information.

4. **Finance:** No specific information.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Land affected by desertification (Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: The forest area in the Main Range is protected to safeguard water supply. As no commercial logging is allowed, the biodiversity is also protected.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** Meetings are held for the general public on the importance of mountain ecosystems and watersheds as safeguards to the country's water supply. One area in need of strengthening is mitigation guidelines for environmental protection and watershed management.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** A project on the preparation of a management and conservation plan for the Main Range in Peninsular Malaysia is being negotiated with the UNDP.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Malaysia gives priority to integrated pest management.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific mention.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	Latest 1995	
Agricultural land (Km^2)	49,070	55,462	57,692	
Agricultural land as % of total land area	14.9	14.9		
Agricultural land (m^2/capita)	3,129.3	2,762.3		
	1989/90	**1992/93**	**Latest 199_**	
Consumption of fertilizers per Km^2 of agricultural land as of 1990	16,896.3	19,665.5		
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1994.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was signed in 1977 and ratified in 1978.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The main causes for loss of biodiversity in Malaysia are habitat destruction, over-harvesting and pollution. As of early 1995, the National Policy on Biological Diversity was in the final phase of formulation before being endorsed by the Cabinet. The aim of this national strategy is to maintain plants and animals in their original habitats as well as outside of their original habitats in facilities such as botanical gardens. The purpose is to ensure long-term food security and preservation of the unique biological heritage of Malaysia.

Various areas are designated as national/state parks, wildlife reserves, sanctuaries and forest reserves. There are plans to expand the network of conservation areas to ensure full representation of ecosystems and all ecological processes therein. The capacity and role of *ex-situ* facilities in conservation activities and research are strengthened with a view to complementing *in-situ* conservation activities. Efforts are underway to expand *ex-situ* conservation sites, giving particular attention to threatened plant species for breeding and as a source of germplasm.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** Key activities being undertaken at the national level include the strengthening of government ministries and departments and research institutes through increased staffing and training.

3. **Major Groups:** Local communities participate in the conservation of biological and genetic resources by highlighting for the government any illegal and unsustainable development that is carried out at sites known to contain valuable biological resources.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** Collaboration with international bodies focuses on training and funding for projects. Biotechnology has been accessed through international cooperation, notably in the area of agricultural waste processing (to useful end-products) technology, product development from marine, microbial and plant material and to combat parasitic diseases.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1992	Latest 199_
Protected area as % of total land area	4.5	
	1990	Latest 199_
Number of threatened species	592	
Other data		

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Traditional methods and knowledge of indigenous peoples and their communities are especially important in the development and application of biotechnologies in the area of traditional medicine and food.

A number of projects have been implemented, which include the conversion of agricultural wastes into useful end-products and diagnostic tests for patient care, products and processes. The control mechanisms for the release of genetically modified organisms or any other biotechnology products are not as yet fully enforced.

Biotechnology has been accessed through international cooperation, notably in the area of agricultural waste processing (to useful end-products) technology, product development from marine, microbial and plant material and use to combat parasitic diseases.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** A National Working Group of Biotechnology exists within the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment as an advisory body for the management and development of biotechnology and related matters. This working group works with a number of other public institutions such as the University of Malaysia, the Institute of Medical Research and the Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute. Policies and programmes are focused on the development and use of environmentally sound and sustainable technologies.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** Research from the public sector is made available to the private sector at no cost and collaboration between the two is encouraged.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** The Japanese International Cooperation Agency and the WHO are two organizations which worked to develop diagnostic tests for patient care and control programmes with the Institute of Medical Research. This project had an external funding component of US$ 2 million. Other partners include New Zealand, Canada, Korea and the United States of America.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

MALAYSIA

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: **PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES**

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: **The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982 and ratified in 1996.** See also the attached tables on the next pages.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific mention.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1994	
Catches of marine species (metric tons)			930,049	
Population in coastal areas				
Population served by waste water treatment (% of country's total population)				
Discharges of oil into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of phosphate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of nitrate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Other data				

Chapter 17 (Oceans) Continued:

Check the boxes in the column below left:
For level of importance use:
*** = very important
** = important
* = not important
N = not relevant

Check the boxes in the column below right:
For level of implementation use:
*** = fully covered
** = well covered - gaps being addressed
* = poorly covered
O = not covered
N = not relevant

TABLE I. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS AND THEIR RESOURCES.

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
***	A. Preparation and implementation of land and water use and siting policies.	**
***	B. Implementation of integrated coastal and marine management and sustainable development plans and programmes at appropriate levels.	**
***	C. Preparation of coastal profiles identifying critical areas including eroded zones, physical processes, development patterns, user conflicts and specific priorities for management.	**
***	D. Prior environmental impact assessment, systematic observation and follow-up of major projects, including systematic incorporation of results in decision-making.	***
**	E. Contingency plans for human induced and natural disasters.	**
**	F. Improvement of coastal human settlements, especially in housing, drinking water and treatment and disposal of sewage, solid wastes and industrial effluents.	**
**	G. Periodic assessment of the impacts of external factors and phenomena to ensure that the objectives of integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and marine environment are met.	**
**	H. Conservation and restoration of altered critical habitats.	**
**	I. Integration of sectoral programmes on sustainable development for settlements, agriculture, tourism, fishing, ports and industries affecting the coastal areas.	**
**	J. Infrastructure adaptation and alternative employment.	**
**	K. Human resource development and training.	**
**	L. Public education, awareness and information programmes.	**
**	M. Promoting environmentally sound technology and sustainable practices.	**
**	N. Development and simultaneous implementation of environmental quality criteria.	**

TABLE II. TECHNOLOGY (MARINE ENVIRONMENT)

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
***	A. Apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment, as well as to reduce the risk of long-term or irreversible adverse effects upon it.	**
**	B. Ensure prior assessment of activities that may have significant adverse impacts upon the marine environment.	**
**	C. Integrate protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic development policies.	*
**	D. Develop economic incentives, where appropriate, to apply clean technologies and other means consistent with the internalization of environmental costs, such as the polluter pays principle, so as to avoid degradation of the marine environment.	*
***	E. Improve the living standards of coastal populations, particularly in developing countries, so as to contribute to reducing the degradation of the coastal and marine environment.	**
**	F. Effective monitoring and surveillance within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of fish harvesting and transportation of toxic and other hazardous materials.	*

TABLE III. SEWAGE RELATED ISSUES

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Sewage related problems are considered when formulating or reviewing coastal development plans, including human development plans.	**
**	B. Sewage treatment facilities are built in accordance with national policies.	**
**	C. Coastal outfalls are located so as to maintain acceptable level of environmental quality and to avoid exposing shell fisheries, water intakes and bathing areas to pathogens.	**
***	D. The Government promotes primary treatment of municipal sewage discharged to rivers, estuaries and the sea, or other solutions appropriate to specific sites.	**
**	E. The Government supports the establishment and improvement of local, national, subregional and regional, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control effluent discharge. Minimum sewage effluent guidelines and water quality criteria are in use.	**

TABLE IV. OTHER SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Established or improved upon, as necessary, regulatory and monitoring programmes to control emissions, including recycling technologies.	**
**	B. Promoted risk and environmental impact assessments to help ensure an acceptable level of environmental quality.	**
**	C. Promoted assessment and cooperation at the regional level, where appropriate, with respect to the input of point source pollutants from the marine environment.	**
**	D. Taken steps to eliminate emissions or discharges of organohalogen compounds from the marine environment.	*
**	E. Taken steps to eliminate/reduce emissions or discharges or other synthetic organic compounds from the marine environment.	*
**	F. Promoted controls over anthropogenic inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous that enter coastal waters where such problems as eutrophication threaten the marine environment or its resources.	**
**	G. Taken steps to develop and implement environmentally sound land-use techniques and practices to reduce run-off to water courses and estuaries which would cause pollution or degradation of the marine environment.	**
**	H. Promoted the use of environmentally less harmful pesticides and fertilizers and alternative methods for pest control, and considered the prohibition of those found to be environmentally unsound.	**
**	I. Adopted new initiatives at national, subregional and regional levels for controlling the input of non-point source pollutants which require broad changes in sewage and waste management, agricultural practices, mining, construction and transportation.	*
**	J. Taken steps to control and prevent coastal erosion and siltation due to anthropogenic factors related to, inter alia, land-use and construction techniques and practices.	**

TABLE V. ADDRESSING CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROGRAMME AREA THE GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	ACTIVITY AS DESCRIBED IN AGENDA 21	LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION
**	A. Coordinating national and regional observation programmes for coastal and near-shore phenomena related to climate change and for research parameters essential for marine and coastal management in all regions.	**
**	B. Providing improved forecasts of marine conditions for the safety of inhabitants of coastal areas and for the efficiency of marine operations.	**
**	C. Adopting special measures to cope with and adapt to potential climate change and sea-level rise.	*
**	D. Participating in coastal vulnerability assessment, modelling and response strategies particularly for priority areas, such as small islands and low-lying and critical coastal areas.	*
**	E. Identifying ongoing and planned programmes of systematic observation of the marine environment, with a view to integrating activities and establishing priorities to address critical uncertainties for oceans and all seas.	**
**	F. Research to determine the marine biological effects of increased levels of ultraviolet rays due to the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer.	*
**	G. Carrying out analysis, assessments and systematic observation of the role of oceans as a carbon sink.	*

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY: VERY HIGH

STATUS REPORT: Water resources assessment and monitoring programmes are generally in place. High population pressures may require greater coverage by hydrometric networks. Surface and groundwater resources have been fully identified and quantified and various programmes (at the national and state levels) are in place for their protection. A number of water-borne diseases are virtually absent from Malaysia and activities are underway to reduce those that still persist (e.g., cholera). Persistent diseases are generally caused by unhygienic conditions, poverty and poor availability of potable water supply during dry periods. Water quality criteria for all water bodies have been developed, but not as yet promulgated into law.

There are a number of projects on flood mitigation, hydroelectric power, water supply and irrigation. Many urban water supply projects are under construction. A special rural water project is focused on improving the networking of distribution to rural households, as well as the rehabilitation and upgrading of water supply systems.

Centralized sewerage systems. It is expected that almost the entire population will be equipped with acceptable facilities by the year 2000.

A campaign was launched in 1993 with the aim of improving awareness among the general public and school children on the need to preserve rivers. This was a joint effort by government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and the general public (including school children). The campaign included: river adoption, river watch, river expeditions, educational talks, river beautification and an international symposium. Various media campaigns are also held on water conservation. River restoration projects are being undertaken to rehabilitate polluted rivers, including the ten-year programme started in 1992 to clean the Klang River, which runs through the most urbanised part of the country.

Rapid development has created gaps in the prevention of pollution and enforcement of water supply standards. There is a need for greater efficiency in water use, including in the area of water re-use for irrigation and improved water management practices and infrastructure. Water conservation measures have more potential than cloud seeding and similar techniques. Conservation measures include reducing non-revenue water losses and the use of mass media to increase awareness on proper use.

Increasing urbanization and industrialization should be streamlined with the identification of new water resources. Water management problems and capabilities differ in different parts and States of Malaysia, requiring different emphases.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: A more comprehensive and detailed monitoring system for catchment areas is needed. States are responsible for land use and water resources. Water resource management is becoming increasingly complicated due to inter-State commitments on the production, transfer and sale of water. The federal government plays an advisory role, which may be enhanced with the formation of a National Water Council. The formation of an advisory body on water supply and management (National Water Council) is being refined. The Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) is the main agency involved in surface water assessment and the Geological Survey Department assesses groundwater resources, receiving information from the DID. State water departments collect information on potable water supply, production, treatment and usage. A network of stations exist for monitoring rainfall and stream flow, with this system being automated progressively.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Privatization is considered an important means of capacity building, taking advantage of the flexibility and expertise of the private sector and relieving government of training and manpower constraints.

Training agencies are being encouraged to increase conduct training within Malaysia (as opposed to overseas training courses). The DID cooperates with the International Irrigation Management Institute in Sri Lanka in irrigation management training. The Public Works Department has regional training centres and also sends staff for overseas training (e.g., in water treatment, dam safety design and treatment plant design). NGOs participate in capacity-building activities such as seminars, training courses and international conferences. Information technology is emphasized with respect to technology transfer and capacity-building.

3. Major Groups: No specific mention.

4. Finance: Financial resources are generally adequate for the development of the water supply network, although large dams for power generation and flood control require foreign assistance. Most water development projects are financed by the federal government. Four current projects benefit from foreign aid. The federal government is reducing its reliance on foreign aid.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Manpower and training are the main requirements and areas for international cooperation and financial assistance.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Fresh water availability (total domestic/external in million m^3)				
Annual withdrawal of freshwater as % of available water				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

NATIONAL PRIORITY: The environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and the enhancement of chemical safety with particular reference to banned and severely restricted chemicals.

STATUS REPORT: The insufficient number of trained personnel for environmental management and the need for high-level liaison between State and federal government are two constraints in managing toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Emphasis is being placed on: reviewing existing environmental measures with respect to rapid industrialization; giving priority to improved measures for toxic chemical and hazardous waste management, including the use of environmentally sound technologies; ensuring adherence to acceptable effluent and emission standards by industry and other environmental policies and practices; ensuring approval of new and appropriate industrial investments; ensuring significant efforts in research and development by the public sector in identifying suitable and effective waste disposal systems; and providing clear codes and guidelines for industries and monitoring their compliance.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Three regulatory instruments control the generation, distribution, treatment and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes since 1989. A comprehensive act is being developed to consolidate all toxic chemical related rules and regulations, including proper use, storage, handling, transport, labelling and disposal. Malaysia actively participates in the UNEP/FAO Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure, among other similar notification mechanisms.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Treatment and disposal facilities are being developed. The Department of Environment established an inter-agency body called the Technical Committee on Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals, as well as the PIC Working Group to provide support and policy guidance to implement PIC, the UNEP's London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and FAO's Code of Conduct on toxic chemicals.

The Ministry of Health is formalizing a system for the disposal of pathologically hazardous wastes from hospitals, medical centres and research institutions. The Ministry of Transport is developing guidelines for the land transport of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. Another government initiative was the establishment of the Environmental Law Review Committee which has identified areas for improvement in existing environmental provisions dealing with toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. Various programmes are being carried out, including training on the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes; education and awareness building for the general public; consultations with industry sectors (in particular for the formulation of guidelines and procedures); regional and international cooperation; and research and development, particularly with respect to the Intensification of Research in Priority Areas Programme.

3. Major Groups: Malaysia approaches the management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes in an integrated manner, involving various actors and agencies. These include the National Task Force on the Ozone Layer, various ministries, universities and research institutions, industry and NGOs.

4. Finance: No specific mention.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: One of Malaysia's priorities is to centralize toxic chemical and hazardous waste storage and treatment facilities in partnership with foreign companies and agencies. This is being facilitated by international partnerships and cooperation for technology transfer and financial assistance.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was ratified in 1993.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

Increased enforcement in hazardous waste management and the preparation of codes of practice for the handling of hazardous wastes are a national priority. A number of working groups have been established to address specific waste streams such as those from oil and petroleum, asbestos, paints and electroplating. Their focus is to adopt a wide range of initiatives on, among others, product stewardship and responsible care, supplementing the Environmental Quality Act of 1974.

See chapter 19 for further information related to hazardous waste management.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. Decision-Making Structure: Three regulatory instruments control the generation, distribution, treatment and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes since 1989. Environmental impact assessments are mandatory for activities involving hazardous wastes.

2. Capacity-Building/Technology Issues: Treatment and disposal facilities are being developed. The government has approved a private venture to establish a centralized and integrated facility for receiving, treating and disposal of hazardous waste in various parts of the country. See chapter 19 for further information.

3. Major Groups: Malaysia approaches management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes in an integrated manner, involving various actors and agencies. These include the National Task Force on the Ozone Layer, various ministries, universities and research institutions, industry and NGOs.

4. Finance: The government provides incentives to promote the recovery and reutilization of wastes. Various incentives are available under the Promotion of Investment Act of 1986, which grants pioneer status to companies for a five-year period to receive, store and treat hazardous wastes in an integrated and environmentally sound manner. The provision and allocation of financial resources are constrained due to competing demands, e.g., health, sanitation and education.

5. Regional/International Cooperation: Malaysia participates in various bilateral and multilateral agreements on hazardous waste management with neighbouring countries. An example is the Malaysia-Singapore Joint Committee on the Environment, aimed to control the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes (through recovery and reuse). The extension of this initiative to other neighbouring States is being explored. See chapter 19 for further information.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995	
Generation of hazardous waste (t)			487,000	
Import of hazardous wastes (t)				
Export of hazardous wastes (t)				
Area of land contaminated by hazardous waste (km^2)				
Expenditure on hazardous waste treatment (US$)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	VERY HIGH	
STATUS REPORT: Much of Malaysia's priority in this area refers to the implementation and centralization of sewerage and sanitation systems and schemes. Privatization is an important aspect of this activity. The implementation of these programmes provides almost all of Malaysia's population with acceptable facilities. Please refer to Chapter 7 on Human Settlements and Chapter 18 on Freshwater Resources for additional information.		

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific mention.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995	
Generation of municipal waste (t)*	N/A	3.4 0 M T	4.34 M T	
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)	N/A	N/A	0.22	
Expenditure on waste collection and treatment (US$)** (1990-95)	N/A	$ 9.0 M	N/A	
Waste recycling rates (%)	N/A	< 1 %	< 1 %	
Municipal waste disposal (Kg/capita)*	N/A	256	281	
Waste reduction rates per unit of GDP (t/year)	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Other data				

Note: * estimated only
** Federal/ Grant for waste disposal

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: Treatment, storage and handling facilities are being developed, with privatization in mind, and additional legal and administrative control mechanisms are available for explosive, radioactive and pathological wastes.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No specific mention.

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No specific mention.

3. **Major Groups:** No specific mention.

4. **Finance:** No specific mention.

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No specific mention.

MALAYSIA

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT.
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was ratified on 5 July 1995.

24.a Increasing the proportion of women decision makers.

No information.

24.b assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge.
Curricula and educational material is being revised.

24.c and 24.d formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development.
Policies/strategies etc. will be in place by 2000.

24.e establishing mechanisms by 1995 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women
Mechanisms are being developed.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.a establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21.

No information.

Describe their role in the national process:

No information.

25.b reducing youth unemployment

No information.

25.c ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth -- gender balanced -- have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.

The goal set in Agenda 21 has been reached.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.a establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments:
Policies and legal instruments are in place.

26.3.b strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies

Indigenous people participate fully in appropriate national processes.

26.3.c involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level.

Mechanisms for involvement are being discussed.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
No further information.

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

27.a developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively.
27.b reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation.
27.c promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.

Mechanisms exist already.

27.d establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
There are four NGOs which participate in the Inter-Agency Planning Group: The World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia, Malaysian Nature Society, Environmental Protection Society of Malaysia and ENSEARCH. NGOs are not included in national delegations to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development but are adequately consulted at the national level. The government provides financial and technical assistance to support the role of major groups in the Inter-Agency Planning Group, through allocations from the relevant ministries.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.a encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making.

The Government supports local Agenda 21 initiatives.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further information.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.a full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.
29.b (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

30.a increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output.

There are governmental policies encouraging the above objective.

30.b encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs.

List any actions taken in this area:

No information.

30.c increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.a improving exchange of knowledge and concerns between s&t community and the general public.

The scientific community has already established ways in which to address the general public and deal with sustainable development.

31.b developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No further information.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.a promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

32.b developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

32.c enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

No information.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

No information.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Malaysia is experiencing a high rate of economic growth (e.g., 8.3 percent in 1993) and declining domestic inflation and unemployment. Economic diversification is aimed at the manufacturing, construction and service industries in order to widen and strengthen the economic base, while reducing reliance on natural resources and agricultural commodities.

Fiscal and monetary management policies, as well as rules and regulations, are geared towards encouraging the private sector to contribute to the expansion of the economy. A major proportion of government revenue comes from taxes and in particular from the private sector. Public services and utilities are oriented towards recovering most operational costs to ensure implementation of priority programmes.

Industrialization is aided by liberal economic policies to attract and encourage foreign and local investors. The government will maintain a tight monetary stance to reduce pressure on wages and infrastructure. The private sector is being encouraged to complement the government's efforts in human resource and infrastructure development, through staff training, carrying out research with local institutions and establishing training and research centres.

CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
Various national plans are aimed at promoting economic growth and socio-economic development. Additional resources are being allocated for the Seventh Malaysia Plan to reflect on-going efforts for the efficient management of the public sector.

Development expenditures in recent years were mainly allocated for infrastructure, human resources development and poverty eradication. Environmental aspects are incorporated into the programmes of relevant government agencies and reflected in the Federal development allocations.

Foreign equity guidelines are being relaxed considerably for the approval of investment projects in the manufacturing and tourism related sectors, as well as for export promotion. Greater emphasis is needed in the planning and allocation of available finances to remove constraints in providing attractive economic incentives and improving the capacity of existing institutional structures.

NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS: No specific mention.

ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES: No specific mention.

ODA policy issues

Malaysia is a recipient country.

External assistance is provided as capital assistance (loans and grants) and technical assistance (bilateral, multilateral, regional and international). Assistance is directed towards training, feasibility studies, provision of experts, consultants, volunteers and equipment in the agriculture, education, environment and industrial sectors. There is a need to enhance government institutional capability through training and technology transfer.

Malaysia extends technical assistance to other developing countries through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme and the South Investment Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre, focusing on human resource development and technology development respectively.

External assistance would, *inter alia*, be desirable for Malaysia to: improve the government's institutional capacity for policy analysis and programme evaluation; be responsive to priority needs and actions (i.e., to fund small-scale and large-scale projects and ensure adequate representation of major recipients in the decision-making process); be sufficiently flexible to help meet additional expenses to carry out Agenda 21 projects; and provide resources and technical assistance for specialist training to strengthen technical expertise in priority areas.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS						
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
ODA funding provided or received (Total US$million)						
	Average for 92-93		Average for 94-96			
Net flow of external capital from all sources as % of GDP						
Other data						

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

NATIONAL PRIORITY: VERY HIGH

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS: The Standards and Industrial Research Institute conducts tests on manufacturing methods and technology and awards ISO certificates to manufacturers that comply with international manufacturing and environmental safety standards. Private test centres and laboratories are being established to carry out technology assessments. Several NGOs and government agencies are actively involved in the promotion of clean and efficient technology. A number of research and academic institutions involved in technology assessment and improvement are continuously monitored and upgraded. This includes the Department of Environment.

A Cabinet Committee on Science and Technology is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes coverage of scientific research and development. Malaysia has established several national bodies which address policy dimensions relating to technology transfer, capacity-building, communications and information. At the regional level, ASEAN addresses science, technology and environment within its Division of Functional Cooperation and, in particular, holds regular meetings on technology transfer and regional collaboration. The ASEAN Environmental Improvement Project is an example of regional cooperation in technology transfer, initiated by the government and which involves NGOs and industry.

Malaysia also participates actively in the Commonwealth Group on Technology Management, which is a decentralized and cooperative network of technology managers, economists, planners, environmentalists, lawyers, bankers, engineers and senior corporate executives.

The private sector is also experiencing a growth of businesses devoted to environmentally sound technology, including marine environmental services and environmental technology for industry. Some larger businesses and corporations are members of the Business Council for Sustainable Development Malaysia.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION: International partnerships are sought to facilitate access to new and emerging environmentally sound technologies in the areas of climate change, biotechnology, environmental pollution, freshwater resources and the marine environment. It is Malaysia's view that financial flows should not be linked to conditionalities. Assistance is required on concessionary and preferential terms. This may include international mechanisms for purchasing technology at commercial rates and passing it to Malaysia on preferential terms.

• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.

Malaysia has achieved mixed successes in getting industries to adopt more efficient and cleaner technology. Greater efforts are needed to improve the production patterns of older industries such as textiles, timber and metal plating, as well as for smaller and medium-scale industries.

Malaysia will continue to aim at the improvement of technology employed by industry. A notable example has been the combined use of legal and administrative tools to bring pollution caused by rubber and palm effluent under control.

• Provide information on the adoption of environmental management systems. National reaction to environmental management system standards such as the ISO 14000 Series and others. Please note efforts made at the national level to promote their adoption and the creation of certification infrastructure in order to facilitate access to these standards to local industry.

• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.

A number of sectoral agencies conduct technology transfer, in particular on information technology and endogenous capacity-building. Within the private sector, technology transfer is under way in the area of forestry, wood processing, marine technology and agriculture. Malaysian authorities give priority to integrated pest management.

Various bilateral programmes have been set up which include technology transfer (e.g., with German technical aid in forestry and veterinary sciences, Canadian aid in geographical information systems and Japanese aid in water resources assessment and air pollution). Most of the transfers of technology are bilateral and the choice of technology has therefore been limited. Also, there is limited capacity to evaluate alternative technology. Financing technology transfer is further constrained by the general lack of preferential and concessionary terms. The inadequate flow of financial resources makes it difficult for the rapidly expanding small- and medium-scale industries to bear the full cost of clean technologies.

The most successful importations of technology have been based on synergy between government and the private sector. Small- and medium-sized industries are unable to purchase or absorb environmentally sound technology due to the shortage of information and assessment capabilities as well as by the costs of purchase, installation and maintenance.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY: VERY HIGH

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:

There have been various advances in building up endogenous capacity in technology development. The migration of scientists out of the country is an important problem, caused mainly by relatively low salaries, poor education facilities for children and better research facilities elsewhere. Also important is the move of scientists to more lucrative professions.

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

The Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre (MASTIC: within the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) develops, collects and disseminates information, statistics and indicators on science and technology. MASTIC and the technology transfer section of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry are addressing the problem of information flow about technology to small- and medium-size industries.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
		Year	
Number of scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in research and experimental development	6,707	1988	
Total expenditure for research and experimental development (US$eq.)	$	19--	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Education is seen as an important tool in promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issue. It allows people to become nature sensitive and aware of the surrounding environment as they learn about conflicts and issues; develop knowledge about ecology; understand the relationships between human and nature; and become committed to reasoning conflicts and problems affecting their local environment. Thus environmental education is an educational process about, for and through the environment to upgrade the living standards of the people. It is needed by all sectors and levels of society aspiring towards sustainability which incidentally is an implicit feature of Malaysia's Vision 2020. The Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000) has emphasised on ensuring sustainable development education in all its developmental programmes. The thrust of the plan includes: infusing formal environmental education in the school curriculum, active participation of public and private sectors including NGOs in promoting environmentally responsible practices; and broad base campaigns through mass media in encouraging life-long process of environmental education.

The Ministry of Education has played an aggressive role in its effort to develop a curriculum on environmental education and implementing varied and diverse teaching and learning strategies in order to maximise awareness and internalising values relevant to the preservation and conservation of the environment. An environmental education programme is implemented with focus on educating the society to be more sensitive and concerned about environmental issues, knowledgeable, skilled and committed in order to act as individuals or collectively in addressing environmental issues. This programme cuts across the primary and secondary school curriculum. It consists of six main topics that are integrated into all subjects of the curriculum. The topics are: God The Almighty Creator of the Universe and All Living Things; The Earth and the Universe; Non Living Things and the Environment; Interaction between Man, Animal and Vegetation and Management of the Environment. As such, the programme is conceived as a process of education about the environment and through the environment. It aims to help students understand the relationship between all components of the environment. Conscious efforts to teach these integrated elements in the classroom and outside the classroom have resulted in much greater awareness amongst students about the quality and state of the environment. Where appropriate educational television programme produced by the Ministry of Education has continued to give focus on the need for awareness on environmental issues. This is to instill viewers the sense of maintaining the quality of the environment. To ensure the continuum of environmental awareness, environmental related courses are also offered at the tertiary levels and teachers training colleges within their existing curricular. From time to time specialised short courses and training programmes which cater to professional from a multitude of background according to their training and professional needs and to increase awareness as well as to enhance local capacity to manage the environment are organised. Promoting broad public awareness is an essential part of a global education effort to strengthen attitudes, values and actions which are compatible with sustainable development. Seminars and workshops have been organised to impart knowledge and instill awareness in order to help Malaysians adopt a more environment-friendly lifestyle and consumption habit.

The post 2000 era will also see further development in the area of educational broadcasting and the emergence of a stronger information technology network for educational uses. The Ministry will continue to provide users of educational electronic media with programmes and resources relating to the use of natural resources and the environment.

a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development: The Department initiated the review of the present school textbooks in order to incorporate environmental values, as well as to remove incorrect or misleading environmental facts. The review started with the primary text books and will be continued with the secondary schools.

In 1996, emphasis was given to the organization of Environmental Awareness (EA) Camps at the stat level. The Department and the Junior Environmental Group of Malaysia (JEGOM), an NGO active in promoting environmental awareness among the children, have successfully organized the first Malaysian Children Conference on Environment at FRIM, Kepong on 16-20 August, 1996.

b) Increasing public awareness: The Department of Environment organized events in conjunction with Malaysian Environment Week (MEW), the Earth Day (April 22), the World Environment Day (June 5), International Ozone Day (September 16), and Clean Up the World Day (September 17).

Public recognition and the use of awards and incentives schemes help to encourage the development and marketing of environmental initiatives among the public. Langkawi Award which is the most prestigious award scheme by the Malaysian Government was organized annually to acknowledge contribution by nay individuals that have made a significant impact in the environmental protection.

c) Promoting training: The Department is in the process of establishing a national environmental training and management centre.

ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS: The Hibiscus Award and the Tree Planting Group were initiated by a group of NGOs is an excellent illustration of collaboration among NGOs, private sectors and government agencies for the betterment of the environment. The corporate sector in malaysia had been forthcoming in supporting educational and awareness by making contributions to the Environmental Education and Awareness Trust Fund. The private sectors support successfully a number of environmental awareness activities for example in the organization of Environmental Journalism Award, Beautification of Schools and etc. All major newspapers in Malaysia have introduced a special column on environment.

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION OF THE LABOUR ACTIVITIES: The Department was allocated a total amount of RM15 million to execute its environmental awareness programmes and activities. Beside this allocation, the Department was also allocated RM200 thousand every year under the Promotion of Environmental Research, Education and Awareness Fund.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 1995	
Adult literacy rate (%) Male	79.6	87	96.0	
Adult literacy rate (%) Female	59.7	74	85.7	
% of primary school children reaching grade 5 (1986-93)		98	96	
Mean number of years of schooling				
% of GNP spent on education	6.0	5.5		
Females per 100 males in secondary school	92.3	100	100	
Women per 100 men in the labour force				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPI'G COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.
Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.
Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: Malaysia has established several national bodies which address policy dimensions relating to technology transfer, capacity-building, communications and information (e.g., the Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre, the National Advisory Committee on USAID/ASEAN Environmental Improvement Project, the Institute for Strategic and International Studies, the Malaysian Institute for Marine Affairs and the Malaysian Institute for Economic Research). Malaysia has a comprehensive network of legal, institutional and administrative structures, covering nearly all aspects of environment and development. The institutional framework for research and development includes over 30 bodies for research and higher education, as well as efforts by the private sector. Institutional coverage is greatest in the fields of medicine, agriculture and the primary resource-based industries. The National Council for Scientific Research and Development oversees the implementation of the National Science Policy and promotes research and development activities in both government and non-government sectors with the aim of facilitating industrial development. Educational twinning programmes such as the International Medical College have lead to long-term capacity-building. In spite of efforts to improve endogenous capacity and capabilities, there has been a net loss of scientists in Malaysia for better opportunities in other fields and countries. Malaysia invested approximately US$ 440 million for the period 1991-1995 in research and development related to education, awareness and training. The funding programme for the Intensification of Research in Priority Areas aims to direct finances towards key areas to support development. Capacity-building for the assessment of alternative technologies is needed among government, the business community, small- and medium-size industries and NGOs.	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:

No specific mention.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21: **No specific mention.**	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

Agenda 21 Chapters		Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade			x		
3.	Combating poverty		x			
4.	Changing consumption patterns		x			
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability		x			
6.	Human health		x			
7.	Human settlements		x			
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making			x		
9.	Protection of the atmosphere		x			
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources			x		
11.	Combating deforestation		x			
12.	Combating desertification and drought		x			
13.	Sustainable mountain development			x		
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development			x		
15.	Conservation of biological diversity			x		
16.	Biotechnology			x		
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources			x		
18.	Freshwater resources			x		
19.	Toxic chemicals			x		
20.	Hazardous wastes			x		
21.	Solid wastes		x			
22.	Radioactive wastes		x			
24.	Women in sustainable development			x		
25.	Children and youth			x		
26.	Indigenous people			x		
27.	Non-governmental organizations			x		
28.	Local authorities		x			
29.	Workers and trade unions			x		
30.	Business and industry			x		
31.	Scientific and technological community		x			
32.	Farmers		x			
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms		x			
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building			x		
35.	Science for sustainable development			x		
36.	Education, public awareness and training			x		
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building			x		
38.	International institutional arrangements			x		
39.	International legal instruments			x		
40.	Information for decision-making		x			

Additional Comments

Computer networks which have access to international information services are generally available throughout the public and private sectors. Malaysia has established a comprehensive national computer network called JARING, which allows for Internet access.

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1989	1993	Latest 199-
Number of telephones in use per 100 inhabitants	8.0	12.6	
Other data			